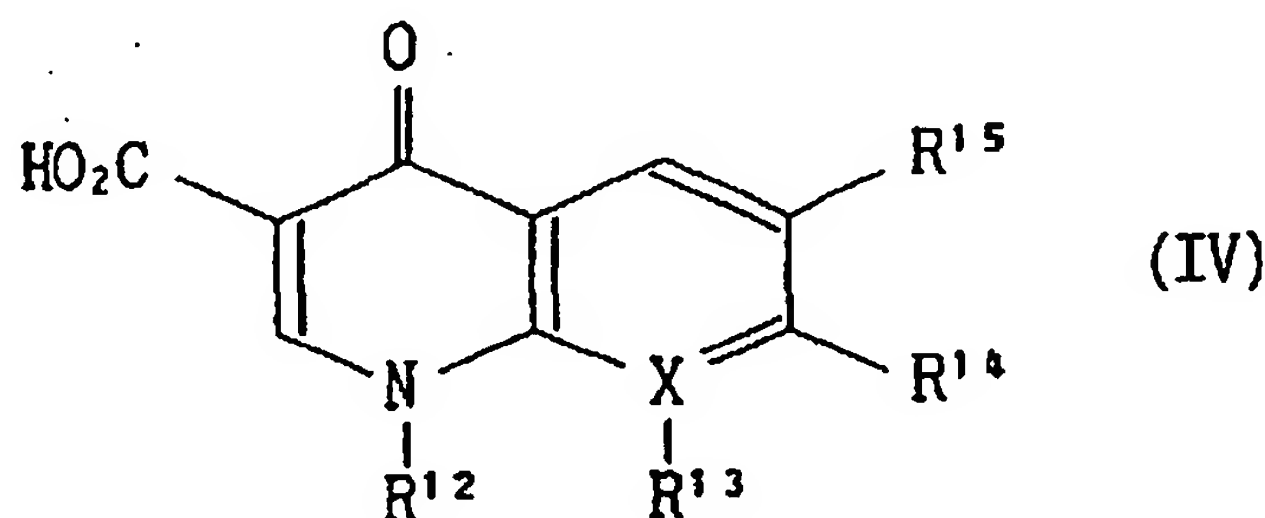


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**1-23. (Canceled)**

**24. (Currently amended)** A method for stabilizing an arylcarboxylic acid or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof in an aqueous solution, which comprises adding a pyridonecarboxylic acid selected from

(a) a pyridonecarboxylic acid of the formula (IV):



wherein

X is a carbon atom ~~or a nitrogen atom~~; and

R<sup>12</sup>, R<sup>13</sup>, R<sup>14</sup> and R<sup>15</sup> are the same or different and each is a hydrogen atom, a halogen, a carboxyl group, an optionally substituted lower alkyl group, an optionally substituted cycloalkyl group, an optionally substituted acyl group, an optionally substituted aryl group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

wherein R<sup>12</sup> and R<sup>13</sup> optionally form a 4- to 6-membered heterocyclic group with the adjacent nitrogen atom and X, and R<sup>14</sup> and R<sup>15</sup> optionally form a 4- to 6-membered heterocyclic group with the adjacent carbon atom, ~~provided that when X is a nitrogen atom, R<sup>13</sup> is void,~~

(b) cinoxacin or

(c) sparfloxacin,

or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof,

to an arylcarboxylic acid of the formula (I):



wherein

$L^1$  is an optionally substituted aryl group having not more than 14 carbon atoms; and

$R^1$  is an optionally substituted alkyl group having not more than 4 carbon atoms or a single bond,

or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof.

**25. (Currently amended)** The method of claim 24, wherein the pyridonecarboxylic acid is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of lomefloxacin, norfloxacin, ofloxacin, ~~enoxacin~~, ciprofloxacin, ~~tosufloxacin~~, fleroxacin and levofloxacin.

**26. (Previously presented)** The method of claim 24, wherein the arylcarboxylic acid is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of ibuprofen, diclofenac, 2-naphthoic acid, 2-naphthylacetic acid, bromfenac, salicylic acid, aspirin, flufenisal, ibufenac, alclofenac, flurbiprofen, ketoprofen, naproxen and mefenamic acid.

**27. (Previously presented)** The method of claim 24, wherein the pyridonecarboxylic acid is added in a proportion of 0.001-5 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the arylcarboxylic acid.